**STAIRWAYS**

**Stairway width**
Stairways shall not be less than 44 inches wide when serving an occupant load of 50 or more, and 36 inches wide when serving an occupant load less than 50. Handrails may encroach a maximum of 4-1/2 inches on each side into this dimension. See Section 1007.3 for accessible means of egress stairways.

**Stair treads and risers**
Riser height shall be 7 inches maximum and 4 inches minimum. Open risers are permitted, provided that the opening between treads is less than 4 inches when located more than 30 inches above the floor or grade. The minimum tread depth shall be 11 inches. The largest tread depth or riser height within any stairway shall not exceed the smallest by more than 3/8 inch.

**Under stair protection**
The walls and soffits within enclosed usable spaces under stairways shall be protected by 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction or the fire-resistance rating of the stairway enclosure, whichever is greater.

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**Ramps**

**Ramp definition**
A ramp is any walking surface that has a running slope steeper than one unit vertical in 20 units horizontal (5%).

**Ramp width**
The minimum width of a means of egress ramp shall not be less than that required for corridors. The clear width of a ramp between handrails shall be 36 inches minimum.

**Ramp slope**
Means of egress ramps shall have a maximum slope of one in twelve (8%). Other pedestrian ramps shall not exceed one in eight (12.5%).

**Ramp landings**
Ramps shall have landings at the bottom and top of each ramp run. Landings shall be at least as wide as the widest adjoining ramp. The landing length shall be 60 inches minimum in the direction of travel when located on an accessible route, and 48 inches for other pedestrian ramps. Where changes in direction of travel occur at landings the landing shall be 60 inches by 60 inches minimum.

**Edge protection**
Edge protection is required on the open side of ramp runs and landings using one of the following methods:

- A minimum 4 inches high curb
- A barrier within 4 inches of the floor or surface
- Extending the floor or surface of the ramp run or landing a minimum of 12 inches beyond the inside face of the handrail.

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**Headroom**
The minimum headroom in all parts of a stairway or ramp may not be less than 6 feet 8 inches. This is measured vertically from the sloped plane adjoining the tread nosings or from the floor surface of a ramp or landing.

**Vertical rise**
A flight of stairs shall not have a vertical rise greater than 12 feet between floor levels or landings. The rise for any ramp run shall be 30 inches maximum.

**Handrails and Guards**
Handrails shall be provided on each side of stairways and ramps with a rise greater than 6 inches. Guards shall be provided on stairways, ramps, and landings that are located more than 30 inches above the floor or grade below. (See handrails and guards handout for more information)